

easily removed together from said release liner and delivered to the package material for pouches containing transdermal therapeutic systems.

38. The composite as claimed in claim 26, wherein the release liner is a tape of indefinite length carrying on its surface composites comprising said layers a) to d) at constant distance from each other.

39. A method of reducing the moisture content and/or maintaining a reduced moisture content of a pouch containing a transdermal therapeutic system, which comprises:

- a) in a first step converting an activatable drying composite as claimed in claim 26 by activation into the active state,
- b) in a further step removing the layers a) to d) of said composite as a whole from the release liner e) of said composite and fixing it to the inner surface of the packing material of a pouch, and
- c) in a further step putting a transdermal system into the pouch and closing the same airtightly.--

REMARKS

This invention provides for, *inter alia*, an activatably drying sheet-form composite, which is suitable for a continuous delivery of a regenerative desiccant to the packaging material for pouches containing transdermal therapeutic systems, the composite comprising a lamanite consisting of five layers.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a), Applicants petition the Assistant Commissioner to extend the time period to file a response to the outstanding Office Action by one month, i.e., up to and including May 15, 2002. A check for \$110.00 is enclosed to cover the cost of this petition. Should any additional fee be required, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to

charge such fee, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

This Amendment cancels all the claims in favor of new claims 26 to 39.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled subject matter in a continuing application.

Claims 26 to 39 provide for a composite which is to be used to reduce the moisture present when manufacturing pouches containing transdermal therapeutic systems. Support for claim 26 is as follows:

“desiccant pouch” *notional, i.e., not for m* p. 1, lines 14, 31; p. 2, line 5

“water-vapor-permeable layer” p. 3, line 10

“polymeric matrix” p. 3, lines 16-30

“regenerative desiccant” p. 6, lines 26-30

“support layer” p. 5, lines 28-29

“pressure sensitive adhesive layer” p. 5, lines 11-12

“release liner” (“adhesive backing layer”) p. 5, lines 13-19

The embodiment, which is directed to the ability of the drying device to be easily peeled off prior to its use from the release liner, finds support on page 5, lines 15 to 16. Figure 1 No. 3 describes layers b) to e) as described in claim 26. Support for the various materials recited in the dependent claims are found on pages 3 to 6 of the specification. Thus, no new matter is added.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 19 to 23 and claims 1, 18 and 25 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(b) for anticipated by Clapham and Inohara respectively; claims 1 to 8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by Incorvia; and claims 12 and 18 stand rejected for allegedly being obvious over Incorvia or Incorvia taken with Hankinson. In view of the new set of claims, it is urged that these rejections are moot and should

be withdrawn as none of these publications teaches or suggests activatable drying sheet-form composites comprising a laminate, which consists of five layers, that are suitable for continuous delivery of a regenerative desiccant to packing materials for pouches containing transdermal systems.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By *M. W. Russell*
Mark W. Russell
Registration No. 37,514
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10151
(212) 588-0800